



New Internationalist

The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

Technology

Pre-Intermediate
New Internationalist
Easier English ready lesson

This lesson:

QUIZ

Speaking

Reading

Vocabulary

Group dictation

Writing headlines



1) How many people in the world don't have access to clean water?

- a) 650 million b) 65 million c) 6 million*

2) Which countries have improved sanitation most in the last 25 years?

- a) Brazil, Nigeria and India b) Vietnam, Pakistan and Cambodia c) Nepal, South Sudan and Madagascar*

3) What percentage of Sub-Saharan Africa has electricity?:

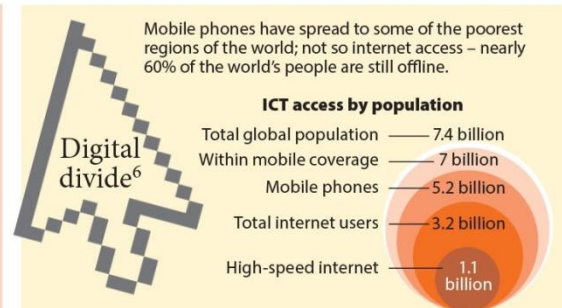
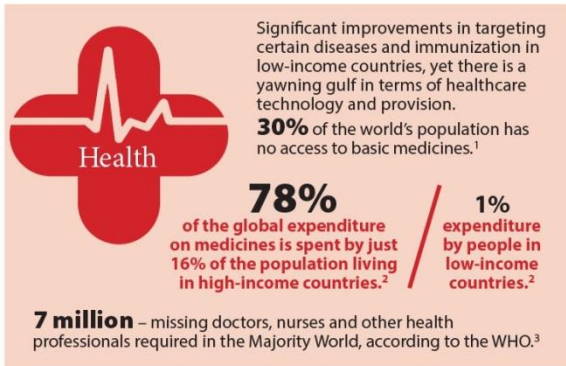
- a) 17.3% b) 35.4% c) 51.8%*

4) How many people in the world have high speed internet?

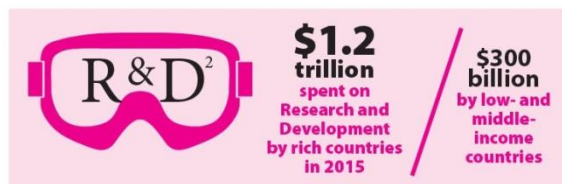
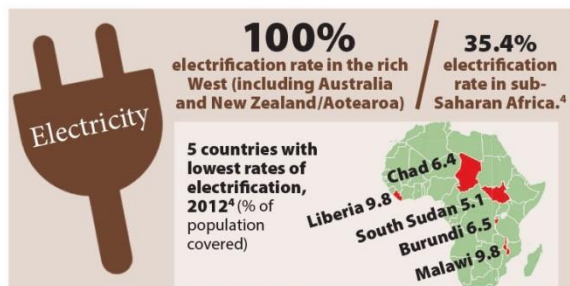
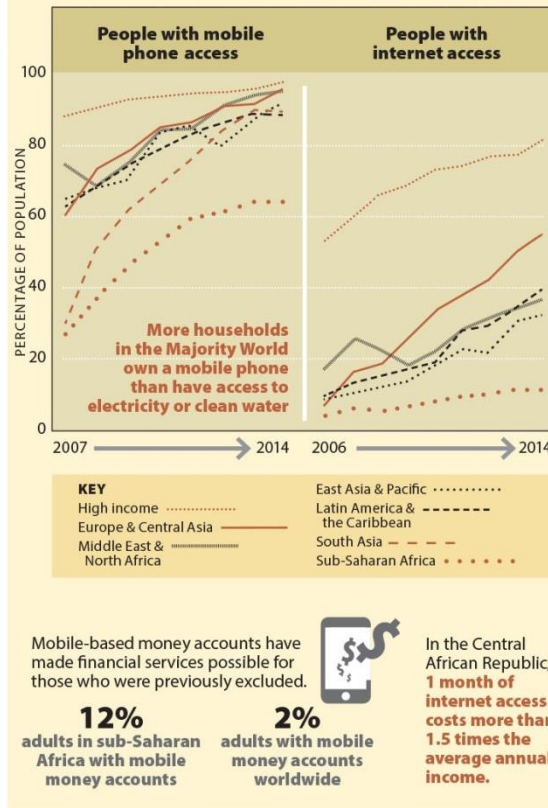
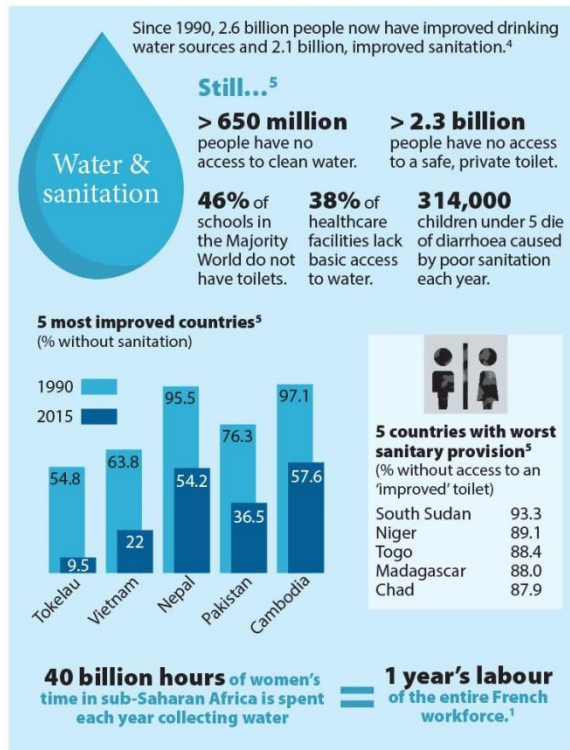
- a) 7.4 billion b) 3.2 billion c) 1.1 billion*

5) In the Central African Republic, how much does 1 month of Internet access cost?

- a) 1 month's pay b) 6 month's pay c) 18 month's pay*



Check
your
answers
and find
more
inter-
esting
infor-
mation



¹ Practical Action, *Technology Justice: A call to action*, 2016, nin.tl/practical-action-info ² Charles Kenny and Owen Barder, 'Technology, Development and the Post-2015 Settlement', CGD Policy Paper, June 2015, nin.tl/kenny-barder ³ Sam Loewenberg,

Questions:

1) What's the
'technology'?



2) Why? – how / who
does it help?

First look at the photos and discuss, then the 2 slides of short texts



1/ Only connect

Many families of refugees lose contact because they cannot find, or communicate with, each other. REFUNITE is a new online platform that offers help. It mainly works with mobile texts. People looking for others can register for free – they already have 400,000 people. It is easy to use, and people can use Amharic, English, French, Somali, Sudanese, Arabic and Swahili languages. It has helped some people meet already.

2/ Fruits of the forest

Peruvian farmers grow cash crops eg. bananas, coffee and yucca, together with local trees. This helps protect the plants and stops soil erosion. This is very different from the 'slash-and-burn' farming they used before for coffee – this destroyed a lot of land. They use organic manure and pest management. And they farmers increased production by 33 per cent in one year.

3/ Hole in the wall

In India, they put computer terminals with internet access in a hole in a specially constructed wall in areas of poorer children. The children have not been to school much. They discover how to use the computer, and help each other. And they are very proud of teaching themselves and their new skills.

4/ New life for very old technology

A lot of India depends on monsoon rains for water. If the rain does not come, there are very big problems. So Indian organizations eg. Tarun Bharat Sangh, are bringing back very old structures to collect rainwater. They usually build reservoirs on higher ground. The reservoirs collect rain when it falls and then the water goes down slowly into the water table, so that wells don't get dry. Other structures store rainwater and have a cover over the top to stop evaporation.

5/ To market – using gravity

The monsoon season used to be very difficult for hill farmers in Nepal. The hills get very dangerous and slippery. So they started using a very clever trolley on steel wires. This has made a big difference. The full trolley goes down - the weight of what is in it pulls it down. At the same time, the empty one is pulled up ready to put more goods in. It's simply mechanical, and does not need any electricity.

6/ Citizen monitors

South Africa is suffering the worst drought in 23 years. They have started a citizen science project to check the quality of its water resources. The miniSASS (South African Scoring System) relies on citizens, young and old, to measure the health of the rivers. The citizens do not need to know anything about science.

7/ Solar for water

In northern Kenya, they now have clean water because of pumps that run on solar power. Before, families had to get dirty water from deep holes dug into dry river beds; now they can get water from the very big underground reservoirs. Clean water cuts child sickness and death, and saves time for women. It also means they can use old farm land again and animals can get water easily.

8/ Growing power

In Himalaya, a village in the Zimbabwean Highlands, an 80-kilowatt micro-hydro generator provides electricity for 100 homes and two energy centres. At the centres, people can charge lanterns and mobile phones. Also, the plant produces power for the local health clinic so it can store vaccines and always have light at night, water-pumps to water farmland, cold storage for crops, a saw mill and a grinding mill.

Match:

1/ pump

2/ monsoon

3/ organic

4/ reservoir

5/ slippery

6/ drought

**7/ hydro-
generator**

a) The time of very heavy rain in SE Asia

b) A man-made lake to keep water

c) No water at all – the land is totally dry

d) Natural – with no chemicals

e) A machine to force liquid or air in one direction

f) A machine that makes electricity from falling water

g) Difficult to walk on because it's wet – you might fall over

Group dictation

- Groups of 4
- Each person take a short text
- Dictate to the others
- When you have finished, check with the original
- Then repeat with the other 4 short texts



Writing headlines

In small groups, **choose 5 or 6** of the stories and write a headline for each one – in **maximum 10 words**.

In headlines, you don't need to use articles (a / the), and you can use the basic verb form for all tenses eg. 'Students make newspaper'.

Write your headlines on a large sheet of paper, with pictures, and compare with the other groups.



Homework

Read more Easier English
articles about technology:

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Issue_492

